

## Message Text

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64

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 SWF-02 AID-20 HEW-08

SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 011503Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SPOP, UNWPC, VT

SUBJECT: HOLY SEE DELEGATION TOWORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 161933, ROME A-201

1. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM VATICAN THAT HOLY SEE DELEGATION TO BUCHAREST UNWPC WILL BE HEADED BY H.E. BISHOP EDOUARD GAGNON, PRESIDENT OF THE VATICAN'S COMMITTEE FOR THE FAMILY. ASSISTANT DELEGATION CHIEF WILL BE FATHER HENRI DE RIEDMATTEN, O.P., SECRETARY OF THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL "COR UNUM". FATHER JAN SCHOTTE OF THE VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE STAFF WILL SERVE AS DELEGATION SECRETARY. NAMES OF ADVISERS AND EXPERTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

2. BISHOP GAGNON, A LONG-TIME MISSIONARY AND SEMINARY ADMINISTRATOR IN COLOMBIA, WAS BORN JAN 15, 1918, IN PORT-DANIEL, CANADA. HE IS FORMER BISHOP OF ST. PAUL IN ALBERTA, CANADA. IN ADDITION TO HEADING COMMITTEE FOR THE FAMILY, GAGNON IS ALSO RECTOR OF CANADIAN COLLEGE IN ROME. HE HAS NO DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE. HE IS KNOWN AS A TRADITIONALIST ON POPULATION MATTERS. RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO "EDUCATE" HIS SUPERIORS HE REPORTEDLY FOLLOWS A LINE WHICH HE BELIEVES MOST LIKELY TO PLEASE THEM.

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3. FR. DE RIEDMATTEN, A SWISS DOMINICAN IN HIS LATE 50'S, HAS SIX YEARS EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS HOLY SEE'S OBSERVER TO UN AGENCIES AT GENEVA. HE HAS FOR YEARS BEEN STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF STRICT CONSERVATIVE INTERPRETATION OF "HUMANAE VITAE," THE PAPAL ENCYCLICAL WHICH STRONGLY OPPOSED ALL FORMS OF ARTIFICIAL CONTRACEPTION. DE RIEDMATTEN HAS A STRONG PERSONALITY AND IS QUITE INFLUENTIAL IN VATICAN. HE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A STRONG INFLUENCE ON GAGNON.

4. COMMENT: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WITH ANY ACCURACY WHAT APPROACH HOLY SEE'S DELEGATION WILL TAKE AT BUCHAREST. MANY OBSERVERS HERE FEEL POPE PAUL'S MARCH 28 MESSAGE TO CARRILLO-FLORES WILL BE GUIDE RATHER THAN ANY PREVIOUS CONSERVATIVE TENDENCIES OF TWO DELEGATION PRINCIPALS. VOLPE

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